



CONGRESSWOMAN ROSA L. DELAURO

September 15, 2014

Highlights of DeLauro FY15 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill

Today, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro introduced a fiscal year 2015 Labor–HHS-Education funding bill. The Republicans have yet to mark up a bill, the only appropriations bill that has not been considered in the Appropriations Committee.

The bill demonstrates House Democrats support for job training, biomedical research, public health, education, child care, and equal pay. These programs and priorities are so important to our nation’s economic growth and security and our future, and consistent with our Middle Class Jumpstart Agenda. Unfortunately, the allocation for these programs has been cut by \$6.8 billion since start of the Republican Majority in 2010.

The bill ensures that funding for virtually every education, health and labor program is returned to at least pre-sequester funding levels and it does so within the funding constraint of \$155.7 billion set by the House Republican Majority, which is \$1.1 billion below current levels. The bill expands the use of mandatory offsets contained in current law to support its increased funding levels. Highlights are below.

Addressing Public Health and Public Health Emergencies

Our nation’s public health must be maintained and improved. The funding cut-backs of recent years have only served to stretch our public health system and we now are seeing the impact of this as the CDC, NIH and BARDA address EBOLA crisis and growing child respiratory illness. That is why this bill includes funding above the pre-sequester level for our public health system.

- **CDC:** The bill provides \$7.1 billion, \$244 million more than current levels, including increases for initiatives to address antibiotic resistance, global health security, prescription drug overdoses, cancer prevention, food safety, and gun violence.
- **NIH:** The bill includes \$30.6 billion, \$778 million more than current levels and fully restores NIH to pre-sequester levels. Investment in biomedical research pays off twice because every dollar that goes to NIH results in 2 dollars of business activity and benefits for the economy. The bill also includes a new provision granting the NIH Director authority to require registration and disclosure of Phase I clinical trials outcomes.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** The bill provides \$1.7 billion, \$317 million (25 percent) above current levels, for emergency preparedness activities, including significant increases for Project BioShield, BARDA, the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and Pandemic Influenza.
- **Title X Family Planning:** The bill funds Family Planning at \$300 million, an increase of \$14.2 million over current levels.

- **Needle Exchange/Gun Control:** The bill does not include the prohibition on needle exchange funding or the prohibition on promoting gun control that is in this year's law.

Protecting and Supporting Our Most Vulnerable

As we see almost every day, the most vulnerable in our society – those subject to violence and those unable to get out of their homes – must be provided a helping hand. A helping hand that allows them the courage to change their situations and a helping hand that allows them to receive proper care and nutrition in their homes. This bill invests in those programs:

- **Family Violence:** The bill fully funds the President's request of \$135 million for Battered Women's Shelters.
- **Victims of Trafficking:** The bill fully funds the President's request of \$22 million for programs assisting domestic and foreign victims of trafficking, \$8 million more than current funding.
- **LIHEAP:** The bill rejects the administration's proposed cut to home energy assistance for low-income households, and instead provides \$3.5 billion to restore the program to its pre-sequester level and better respond to extreme cold weather and unusually high prices for heating fuel.
- **Senior Nutrition:** The bill increases funding to \$816 million for congregate and home delivered meals for low-income seniors, fully restoring the sequester cuts.
- **Social Security Administration:** The bill includes \$12.1 billion, \$360 million (3 percent) above current levels, which will allow SSA to avoid cuts to services.
- **Corporation for National and Community Service:** The bill includes \$1.065 billion, \$15 million over current levels.

Investing in Early Childhood and Proven Education Programs

Investments in early learning and education have been recognized by countless economists as dollars well spent. This bill invests in early learning and education programs:

- **Child Care & Head Start:** The bill provides \$2.5 billion for Child Care, \$150 million above the current levels and \$8.9 billion for Head Start, \$271 million above current levels. Too many families must accept substandard child care because our head start and child care waiting lists are so long. The bill also continues \$250 million to support Preschool Development grants assisting State efforts to establish and expand access to preschool programs for low-income families.
- **Education State Formula Grants:** The bill includes an additional \$305 million to bring all of the foundational education grant programs back up to the pre-sequester funding level, including Title I grants to school districts (+\$82 million), Impact Aid (+\$2.6 million), Teacher Quality State Grants (+\$117 million), Rural Education (+\$5 million), Indian Education (+\$6.8 million), English Language Acquisition (+\$8.7 million), IDEA Special Education State Grants (+\$65 million), and Adult Education State Grants (+\$18 million).
- **School Safety:** The bill maintains \$90 million in funding for national programs, including the Now is the Time Plan, to prevent school violence and protect schoolchildren. The bill also includes \$60 million for Promise Neighborhoods, an increase of 6 percent above current funding.
- **Afterschool:** The bill includes \$1.2 billion for 21st Century Community Learning programs, an increase of \$19 million above current levels.

- **Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs):** The bill includes full funding of \$75 million to support the administration's proposed "MSI College Success Grants" initiative in FY 2015. In addition, the bill provides sufficient funds to return each Aid for Institutional Development program to at least the pre-sequester level.
- **PELL Grants:** The bill maintains the discretionary portion of the maximum Pell grant award to increase the maximum award by \$100 to \$5,830.

Supporting Job Training, Employment, Worker Protection and Equal Pay

We all know that the minimum wage is not sufficient to stay out of poverty. That is why it is important to invest in job training and employment programs that help Americans better themselves and their families. So, the bill includes additional investments in those programs that are designed to help our workers help themselves, such as:

- **WIA Formula Grants, Job Corps, YouthBuild, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers, Reintegration of Ex-Offenders, WANTO, Senior Community Service Employment, and the Employment Service:** The bill returns funding for all of these programs to the pre-sequester level. The additional funding will help an estimated 15,000 workers to enroll in job training programs, more than 2,000 seniors to participate in community service jobs, and millions of job seeking Americans to receive high-quality employment services to help them get back to work.
- **State Paid Leave:** The bill includes \$5 million to launch this new program, as requested by the President. This program will support state efforts to ensure that workers have access to paid leave. Only 12 percent of employees in America today have access to even one paid leave day.
- **Worker Protection:** Funding for the Wage and House Division, OSHA and OFCCP are returned at least to pre-sequester funding levels so that our employment laws are fully enforced. An additional \$3 million is included for OFCCP to address gender-based pay discrimination, which serves to hold women and their families down economically.

Protecting Tax Dollars: The bill includes a new provision that prohibits the awarding of federal contracts to companies that were incorporated in the United States but have reincorporated overseas to dodge their tax responsibilities.

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